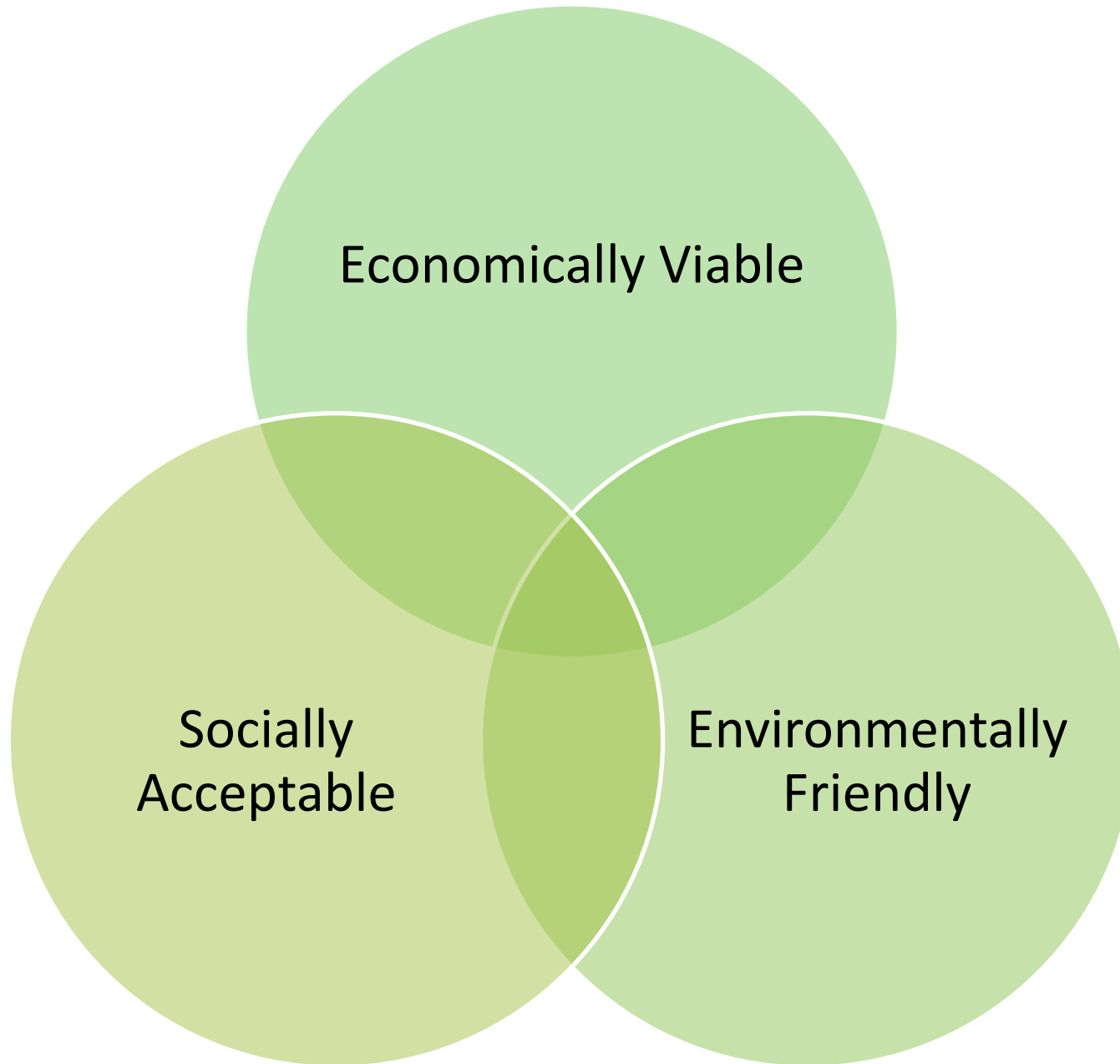


Going Green at Home



Laura L. Barnes, Librarian
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What is Sustainability?



Why Is It Important?



CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- etc. etc.



11/7/19 USA TODAY

JOEL PITT

Going Green – A Life Cycle Approach

- What, how, and whether you buy
- How you use what you buy
- What you do with products at the end of their lives

Think Before You Buy



8 questions to ask before buying stuff

- Can I afford this stuff?
- Do I need this stuff?
- Will this stuff create or reduce clutter in my life?
- Does this stuff replace some other stuff that is still functional?
- Does this stuff somehow make a task or activity easier?
 - Corollary: Is this stuff a unitasker? Do I already have stuff that will do the same thing?
- Can this stuff help someone?
- Will buying this stuff hurt the environment more than it will help me?
- Is this high quality stuff or junk?

Traits of Effective Environmental Consumers

- Pay special attention to major purchases
- Become a weight watcher
- Analyze your consumption quantitatively
- Don't feel guilty about less important decisions
- Look for opportunities to be a leader
- If you buy, choose products that help the environment
- Think about non-environmental reasons for reducing consumption

The **BuyGreen** Card

0123 4567 8901 2345

B. ECO FRIENDLY

MEMBER SINCE 10/97

EXPIRES 05/14

What Are Green Products?

- Aren't dangerous to the health of people or animals.
- Don't damage the environment during manufacture, use, or disposal.
- Don't consume a disproportionate amount of energy or other resources during manufacture, use, or disposal.
- Don't cause unnecessary waste due to excessive packaging or a short useful life.
- Don't involve the unnecessary use of or cruelty to animals.
- Don't use materials derived from threatened species or environments.



Beware of greenwashing

Be a Smart Consumer

- Environmental claims should be specific
 - Look for specific amounts (recycled content, a certain percentage less packaging, etc.)
- Some claims are too vague to be meaningful
 - “eco-friendly”, “environmentally friendly”
- Degradable products don't save landfill space
 - Anything degradable put into a landfill degrades very slowly
 - Composting turns degradable material into usable compost
- Symbols can be useful
 - Recycling symbol
 - Green certification symbols → Energy Star, Green Seal, EPEAT, WaterSense



Cleaners, electric chillers, paint, floor care, paper, hand soaps, windows, doors



Toilets, showerheads, faucets, landscape irrigation services



Wood and paper products



Low emitting interior building materials, furnishings, and finish systems.



Electronics, lighting



Computers

Products With Significant Impact

- Electronics
- Household cleaning products, paints, and other chemicals

Eco-friendly electronics isn't an oxymoron



Factors to Consider

- Buy with energy in mind → Energy Star
- Buy used
- Look for EPEAT
- Buy less toxic



In 2007, Americans disposed of 2.25 million tons of TVs, cell phones, and computer products.

18% (414,000 tons) was recycled.

82% (1.84million tons) was thrown away, primarily in landfills.



Think Before You Trash

- Electronic devices are a complex mixture of several hundred materials.
- Can include lead, mercury, cadmium along with hazardous chemicals, such as brominated flame retardants.
- Don't throw your electronics away
 - Manufacturer and retailer take back programs
 - Donate to schools, community organizations, or vocational programs
 - Community e-waste collection events
 - Trade in at Amazon, Gazelle, or Best Buy

**The average US household
accumulates up to 100 pounds of
hazardous household waste,
including cleaning products, paints,
oils, batteries, and pesticides**



9 Ways To Green Your Cleaning Products

- Buy natural household cleaners
- Make your own household cleaning supplies
- Use castile soap
- Use a natural drain cleaner
- Choose natural laundry detergent
- Choose natural dishwashing soap
- Choose natural metal polishes
- Reuse household items to make cleaning supplies
- Choose eco-friendly paper towels

Cleaning products are only part of picture



Green Cleaning Practices

- Keep dirt out of the house
 - Durable welcome mat encourages visitors to wipe their feet
- Minimize product use
- Match the product with the need
 - Don't use a strong cleaner on a mild stain
- Use products properly. Read the labels!

**Switch out your
light bulbs**



Do you really think
we'll save any money
with those new
EFFICIENT lightbulbs?



I dunno.
Did we turn
off the lights?

Program your thermostats



Other Opportunities

- Ask for assistance
- Install high-efficiency water heater
- Check hot water temperature, reset if appropriate
- For new construction, expansion, renovation, consult contractors/designers with energy efficiency expertise
 - insulate beyond code
- Purchase energy efficient appliances
- Track energy use history

**Don't break
the bank**





An Exelon Company

Your Account

User Name:

Password:

LOG IN!

[Register](#) | [Forgot Password](#)

Search this site **GO!**

Customer Service

Home Savings

Business Savings

Environment

Community

Education & Safety

Partners in Business

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Find Smart Ideas for home savings

When you reduce your energy consumption, you save money on your energy costs and contribute to the quality of life in our community, our country, and the world. *Smart Ideas®* from ComEd can help you do just that. Discover which ideas you can put into action, and begin saving today.

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Get answers to your energy usage questions and ideas on how to save costs.

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Examine more energy-saving tips that can help reduce your energy bills.

[Home Makeovers](#)

Check out a showcase of energy efficiency home makeovers and learn how to apply these great ideas to your home.

[Programs & Incentives](#)

Learn much more about reducing your energy



Seek Assistance. Explore assistance programs designed to help you get through the winter.

MORE!



Discover energy-saving items and accessories. ComEd customers save 20% on every item in the store.



Real-Time Pricing: The Barnes Family, Champaign IL

House details: Two-story 1,500 square foot house with basement, built in the 1920s. Windows and doors replaced in 2008.

One month (6/7/2011 to 7/7/2011)	Over 36 months
PSP bill: \$117.00 Standard (BGS) bill: \$127.84 Savings: \$10.84 Percent savings: 8.48%	Total savings: \$708.90 Total percent savings: 19.12%



Water costs more
than you think

A photograph of a lush garden scene. In the foreground, a vibrant green lawn is visible. In the middle ground, a wooden bench with vertical slats is partially obscured by a variety of flowers, including tulips in shades of orange, red, and white. There are also some green shrubs and small trees. In the background, a brick wall and a paved area are visible.

**Rethink your
landscaping
and lawn
care routine**

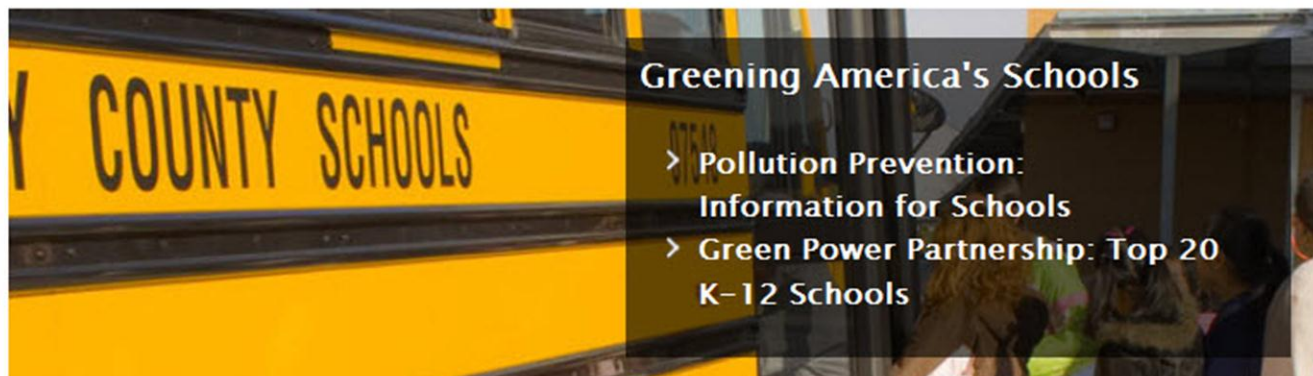
Throw away less stuff



Need more information?



Learn the Issues: Green Living



Greening America's Schools

- > **Pollution Prevention: Information for Schools**
- > **Green Power Partnership: Top 20 K-12 Schools**

Our actions impact the environment. Today we realize that each thing we do can help or hurt our planet in many ways. We all need to take ownership of environmental protection. EPA has tools to help you learn and understand the issues and help you reduce your environmental footprint. Learn more at EPA's [Sustainability site](#).

At Home and In the Garden

Tips for home safety, avoiding potential risks, and preventing pollution by recycling and conserving water and energy.

- [Clean Energy](#)
- [Your Yard and Clean Air \(PDF\)](#) (2pp, 1.6kb, [About PDF](#))
- [Consumers Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste](#)
- [Why Should People Use CFLs?](#)
- [Green Homes](#)
- [GreenScapes: Lawn and Garden Care](#)
- [Water Efficiency](#)

In Your Community

Green communities have a healthy environment, a vibrant economy and a high quality of life. Citizens, businesses and government work together to achieve continuous improvement.

- [My Environment](#)
- [Make a Difference in Your Community—Volunteer!](#)
- [Making Smart Growth Happen](#)
- [Green Power Locator](#)
- [Green Building](#)

When Shopping

Everything you buy affects the Earth, but some choices have a lesser impact. Educating yourself about the products you buy can empower you to make a difference in protecting the planet. It's called "green purchasing," and it's easy to do.

- [Find ENERGY STAR Products](#)

At School

Our children spend a good part of their days at school. What happens there can impact their health and the environment.

- [Healthy School Environments](#)
- [Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools](#)

Top Questions: Green Living

- Are there requirements for products with "green" labels such as biodegradable, organic, recycled, low emitting, etc.?
- How do I know what materials are recyclable in my community, and where can I take these materials to be recycled?
- How might balloons released into the air affect the environment? Who should I check with to see if balloon releases are allowed in my area?

[Ask a Question](#)

Related Topics

- [Learn the Issues: Climate Change](#)
- [Learn the Issues: Air](#)
- [Learn the Issues: Water](#)
- [Science & Technology: Sustainable Practices](#)
- [Laws & Regulations: Cross-Cutting Issues](#)

Featured Resources

[How Clean is the Electricity I Use? Power Profiler](#). Calculates the air emissions attributable to the electricity you use in your home or business during one year.

Find recycling centers for

Near

aluminum cans, computers, paint

zip or address, city, state

Search



Available on the
iPhone App Store



iRecycle

Powered by
Earth911.com

Advertise with us

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The 8 'Must-Dos' of
Being Green



Sustainability in
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The Next Industrial
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After the Storm



Maldives at Risk



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Reuse everything you can

Recycle to close the loop

RIGHT NOW

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- New Invention Could Replace Polystyrene
- 'Responsible CEO of the Year' Winner Dishes With Earth911.com
- Decoding 'Fair Trade'
- A Replacement For Incandescents?
- Connecticut Adds Plastic Bottles to Deposit Law
- Household Cleaner Debate Heats Up Congress
- What's the Status of the Senate Climate Bill?
- New E-Waste Bin May Hit NYC
- San Jose Says 'Paper Nor Plastic'

More News

Highlight on Paint



READ ABOUT PAINT

- 8 Ways to Green a Small Space
- Tucson Area Loses Hazardous Waste Drop-Off
- Asphalt Company Saves \$1M by Recycling
- Ford Study Examines Impact of Water-Based Paints
- Color Your World: Painting Made Easier

Highest Rated

- Cheat Sheet: Organic
- Van Jones Resigns As Green Jobs Adviser
- 360: Bottle Caps
- Pros & Cons of Solar Power/Panels
- Maldives at Risk

Quick Vote

When I go to buy something, the green factor I'm most concerned about is:

- Its recyclability
- Whether or not it's organic
- If it's fair trade
- Whether or not it's biodegradable
- Green factors aren't important to me

VOTE

View Results



EARTH MATTERS



LIFESTYLE



TECHNOLOGY



BUSINESS



TRANSPORTATION



HOME



FOOD



FAMILY

BEAUTY & FASHION

BOOKS

ECOLLYWOOD

HEALTH

MY GREEN DAY

TRAVEL



MELT ROCKS TO SAVE ENERGY?

Don't worry. It all makes sense
at Rockwool Insulation in Denmark.

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TOP FEATURES

Daily Briefing: Obama wins Nobel Prize
Plus: Monkey moms act eerily human.

What every executive needs: A flu suit
Ultimate anti-H1N1 outfit has protective coating.

Take a visual tour of the news
Check out our weekly photo gallery.

Michelle Obama gets Girl Scouts honor
First Lady given honorary president title.

Travel industry prepares for flu season
Hand sanitizer and gloves being passed out.

Chicago marathoners recycle sneakers
Plus tips on how to recycle your shoes.

Beware the giant bacteria sea blobs
Mucus-like material found in Mediterranean.

VIDEO



MNN State Reports



meet the correspondents

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Joe Fiennes



Green drinks
event



Tea cup pigs
as pets?

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Green Basics

2. INTERACT

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Games
Pop Quizzes

3. TAKE ACTION

How to Go Green
Green Buying Guides
Green Holidays
Job Board

[treehugger > home](#)

Recommended

COP15 Pre-Game

The road to Copenhagen

Reader's Photos

Slideshows made by you!

Green Fashion

Your clothes are a statement

Solar Backpack Sweepstakes

Take a quiz and you

treehugger (ALL)



Most Popular:
Taiwanese Center Has Hi-Tech Solar-Powered Skin



Fashion Icon Gale Parker Launches Eco-Fashion Line Clothespin

by Kristin Underwood, Sacramento, CA on 10.11.09

FASHION & BEAUTY

[HTTP://DIGG.COM/REGISTER/](http://digg.com/register/)



The name Gale Parker might not ring a bell, but we are willing to bet that you've probably heard of [Yves Saint Laurent](#), Valentino and perhaps Andy Warhol. Well, she's right up there with them when it comes to fashion, and now she's taking her icon status and fashion-forward style into the eco-fashion world. But will mere mortals be able to afford it?

[Eco-fashion](#) these days may be fashion forward, but it is far from perfect. There is always something missing - too expensive, sizes don't quite fit right, clothes wear out too quickly, not enough variety in the cuts or styles, and on and on and on. Now, if someone, say, spent the last 25 years in the fashion world, with some of the biggest names, and was even a fashion muse for YSL and Valentino, would they maybe be able to get it right? Would they be able to blend beautiful colors with trendy styles to [give your](#)

[bland wardrobe a little pop](#), without busting your wallet?

Article continues: [Fashion Icon Gale Parker Launches Eco-Fashion Line Clothespin](#)

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**Green
DIY
Projects**



31
AUG

National Recycling Competition Kicks Off

Read the full post at Earth911.

*The first-ever nationwide recycling competition for elementary, middle school and high school students launches this month. Keep America Beautiful's **Recycle-Bowl** competition starts Oct. 17, but schools can start registering **now**.*

The idea is simple. Register as a school or a classroom, recycle as much as you can for a month and then report your results to KAB.

*There are more details, like if you want to compete in the Competition or Open Division, or if you want to be on the Flexible Game Plan instead, but KAB does a good job of explaining it all **here**.*

Share this:



(Edit)

Posted by **Laura B.** on August 31, 2011 in **Awards & contests, Education, K-12, Recycling**

Leave a comment

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Your Room-By-Room Guide to Batteries

Read the full post at Earth911.

To help you maximize your rechargeable battery recycling opportunities, we put together this room-by-room guide and highlighted some unexpected items.

Share this:



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Posted by **Laura B.** on August 31, 2011 in **Green lifestyle, Recycling**

Leave a comment

31
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Making back-to-school greener

Earth911 has several articles with good suggestions for making back-to-school a little more environmentally friendly. They are:

- 10 Back-to-School Items to Buy Used
- 5 De-Cluttering Craft Projects For Your Dorm
- 5 Ways to Pack a Zero Waste Lunch

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(Edit)

Posted by **Laura B.** on August 31, 2011 in **Colleges and universities, Education, Green lifestyle, K-12**

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31
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Novel Alloy Could Produce Hydrogen Fuel from Sunlight

Read the news release.

Scientists from the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville have determined that an inexpensive semiconductor material can be "tweaked" to generate hydrogen from water using sunlight.

The research, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, was led by Professors Madhu Menon and R. Michael Sheetz at the UK Center for Computational Sciences, and Professor Mahendra Sunkara and graduate student Chandrashekhar Pendyala at the UofL Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research. Their findings were published Aug. 1 in the Physical Review Journal (Phys Rev B 84, 075304).

Recent Posts

- National Recycling Competition Kicks Off
- Your Room-By-Room Guide to Batteries
- Making back-to-school greener
- Novel Alloy Could Produce Hydrogen Fuel from Sunlight
- USDA, Departments of Energy and Navy Seek Input from Industry to Advance Biofuels for Military and Commercial Transportation

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